MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. This is what the circular says.

"Collection and supply of materials should "as a rule be done by contractors on agreements duly executed by them."

What portion should be done by departmental agency is also stated in the circular.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): But the answer says that the actual work should be done by the department. My question is whether the work directed to be done departmentally according to the circular cannot at all be given to contractors.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The circular has to be observed so far as it goes. It says what should be done by the departmental agency and what may be done by contractors.

Grant of P. W. D. Contracts for Road-making to local Contractors.

102. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the inhabitants of the localities traversed by the ryots' roads and other new roads are very anxious to see that these roads are really improved and well maintained?

(*b*) Will not such persons, if they are given the contracts for improving or maintaining such roads, take greater interest in the work than strangers and turn out the maximum amount of work that can be expected with the amount allotted?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the Chief Engineer to give the contracts for the maintenance and improvement of ryots' roads and other new roads to persons of the localities through which these roads pass?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; naturally.

(*b*) Much will depend upon the persons who come forward to take up and are entrusted with such works.

(*c*) Contracts for the maintenance of minor roads will be given to such persons as apply to the Executive Engineer and will conform to the rules and practice of the department. In fact the Chief Engineer has already issued instructions in this direction to the Executive Engineers in December 1922.

Bridge across the Minachil River on the Lalam-Ponkunnam Road.

103. **MR. K. I. JOSEPH** (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long have the people of Minachil been making representations for the construction of a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road;

(*b*) when Government sanction was given for its construction;

(*c*) how much money has been sanctioned for the purpose and in which years the money was sanctioned;

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[Mr. K. I. Joseph.]

(*d*) what amount has been spent for the purpose till now;

(*e*) whether any work has been yet begun in the construction of it; if not, what the reasons are for the delay; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to take the necessary steps for the complete construction of it during the course of 1101?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) For about 14 years.

(*b*) In September 1916.

(*c*) A sum of Rs. 5,000 was allotted for the work in 1099 and Rs. 7,000 in 1100.

(*d*) Only a sum of Rs. 23 has been spent till Edavam 1100.

(*e*) Yes. All preliminary work has been got through. Iron materials for the platform costing about Rs. 13,000 have been arranged for. Further investigation as to the suitability of the design and the provision made for navigation during high floods was found necessary. This was in progress in 1099. It was late in the dry season in 1100 when the details were finally settled and the construction work could not therefore be started in the current year.

(*f*) There is a provision of Rs. 10,000 in the Preliminary Budget for 1101 for this work and every endeavour will be made to expedite it. It is not possible to complete the work in 1101, as the bridge is estimated to cost Rs. 39,930 and the working dry season is very short.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the iron materials have been collected now? That is with reference to part (*e*) of the answer.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The materials for the platform have been arranged to be manufactured in the Workshops partly and a foreign order for the piles etc., has been placed in July 1925. These iron materials would cost about Rs. 13,000. It is expected that there will be some debit to the work on account of this in the current year. I cannot say whether they have arrived and have been paid for.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): When are they expected?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not able to give the exact date. The Chief Engineer expects that a portion of this Rs. 13,000 would have to be debited this year. It means that they will arrive before the close of the year 1100.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know why it took nearly two years for arranging the details of the work which was sanctioned some nine or ten years ago?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It was not possible to do any work soon after the estimate was sanctioned as further investigation had to be made regarding the suitability of the design and the provision made for navigation during high floods. This work has, however, now been completed and a revised estimate has been made.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know why it took two years for the arrangement of the details?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For want of funds, the work had to be held in abeyance till 1099. Subsequently, the investigation that I referred to had to be made and a revised estimate has been sent up. Now the work will be taken up.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): With reference to part (*f*), does the Government think that any work will actually be done in the course of next year?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): About Rs. 10,000 has been provided for the purpose.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): But will the Government take the necessary steps to see that some work at least is actually done on the spot in the course of the year 1101?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

The Lalam-Ramapuram Road.

104. MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Lalam-Ramapuram road is not fit for cart traffic?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to do the needful in the course of 1101?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; it was only a trace.

(*b*) The conversion of the trace into a cart road is proceeding and there is a provision for it in the budget for 1101 M. E.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): For how long are these improvements being made?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member's attention is invited to page 10 of part 1 of the Detailed Budget of Works, item 115. It will be seen therefrom that, in 1039, Rs. 1,135 was spent and it is expected that Rs. 1,000 will be spent this year, so that the work has been going on from 1099 at least.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): What portion of the work has been finished by this time?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I can only give the member the amount spent on the work.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Of course the amount could be seen from the budget. But I want to know what actual work has been done.

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